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NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

The news of the week is the general advance into Cyrenaica by Empire troops, a development of considerable importance to Russia because it means that Axis pressure on the Soviets would to some extent be reduced. Fifty miles have been penetrated. The massing of supplies and rushing of reinforcements in Egypt in recent weeks have been done with a view to make this drive successful. Mr. Churchill has explained that this invasion has the primary object of smashing German and Italian Army in Libya.

General Weygand, the Vichy representative in North Africa who had plenary powers to do what he liked, has been dismissed. He was a close collaborator of Marshal Petain, but his dismissal means that Darlan and Laval have gained the day. Germany found in General Weygand a hard nut to crack.

Russia has introduced a new air-craft, called by the Germans "Panzer Aircraft" capable of withstanding heavy ground fire, flying at sixty feet over marching columns directing deadly fire from cannons and machine guns.

The evacuation by Russians of Kerch has been admitted. The Nazi troops have been driven out of the outskirts of Tula one hundred miles south of Moscow. The Russians have improved their position in the Central and Northern Sectors though fierce battles continue. German losses in the battle front continue to be very heavy and it is reported from the Central Sector that a number of German troops have been found frozen to death.

Marshal Badoglio, it is now known, has been dismissed from his post of President of the National Reasearch Council. There is a move in Italy for the trial of Marshal Badoglio before a military court. It is also stated that General Pricolo, Chief of Italian Air Staff, has been dismissed. The General was unpopular with Hitler because he would not send ten divisions as required by him to the Eastern Front.

The present Italian naval strength has been summed up by Admiral Cunningham. It would appear that Italy has four or possibly five battleships or about the same number when Italy entered the war. The number of 8-inch gun cruisers have been reduced from seven to three, possibly four. Italy has now 80 fewer destroyers and torpedo boats than at the beginning of the war. About 30 per cent of Italian submarines have been sunk out of a total of 120. Admiral Cunningham emphasizes that, though the morale of the Italian navy has weakened, its potential strength is not to be underestimated.

Three incidents, proving German atrocities, have been reported during the week. A man found guilty by the Bucharest court-martial of assassination of a member of the German military mission in Rumania has been executed. In Prague, four death sentences have been carried out for "preparing high treason and unlawful possession of arms." One of them was an agricultural engineer, another was a builder, another a hair dresser, all of Prague; and the fourth a shoe-maker from Eastern Bohemia. Another batch of five persons has been executed in Prague for high treason.

A new link with Russia is being established, it is said, with the organization of a regular supply route from India, *via.*, Baluchistan and East Iran, from Mokkundi at the terminus of the Indian Railway in Baluchistan to Meshed, in North Iran. This route covers a

distance of 769 miles and is now being used for supplies from India. Rolling stock from England, Australia and Hongkong is being rushed in large quantities to Iran.

President Roosevelt has asked Congress for an additional appropriation of 6,687 million dollars for the Army. Of this amount, a sum of 308 million dollars is for expediting production of defence equipment and supplies, 269 millions for the Army of the Philippines, while half the total amount is earmarked for ordnance. The President has asked for 308 million dollars for the Navy and presumably, out of this amount, merchantships would be armed.

General de Gaulle, head of the Free French Forces, has outlined the Free French Charter as follows :—

> " (1) To carry on the war by every possible means ; (2) to enable the people of France to speak freely, to say what they think and what they want; and (3) under the motto of liberty, equality and fraternity when the war ended, every Frenchmen shall be free to work and think in freedom and dignity."

The British freighter *Nottingham* has been torpedoed and sunk *en route* for America. She was on her maiden voyage carrying a load of Scottish whisky to the United States. She was of nine-thousand tons and was designed to carry American supplies to Britain.

The German motor ship *Odenwald* (5,098 tons) was seized in the South Atlantic by units of the United States Navy. *Odenwald* was *en route* to Germany from Japan and much of her cargo is understood to have been rubber, metals and other essential war materials. The crew tried to scuttle the ship, but this was prevented, though repairs are required to make the ship seaworthy. This ship left Yokohoma two months ago and made its way round Cape Horn. It was using the name *Wilmoto* of Philadelphia and flew the American flag. Flags were also affixed or painted on other parts of the ship.

AMERICA AND THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

The signature of President Roosevelt to the amended Neutrality Act is an event of the utmost importance. United States ships will now be armed and they can carry any material to belligerent ports. Colonel Knox stated that the effect of the law was that the United States itself could now determine how its merchantmen could be used to get war supplies to any part of the world " where they can usefully be employed." It is stated further that naval and air patrols and convoy escorts may be provided for the rest of the way across the Atlantic to the British Isles. United States bases may also be established in Great Britain. Convoys can be passed through Gibraltar to British Mediterranean ports, thus saving the time which is now spent in going round the Cape of Good Hope. The United States navy, therefore, can start convoys at once. Further, the passage of the measure represents a resounding blow to Hitler and a great personal success to President Roosevelt. The event ends an epoch in American politics and removes the last legal obstacle to American entry into the war whenever she may desire it. The Neutrality Act of 1935 is, for all practical purposes, a dead letter. Sections II, III and IV of that Act now stand repealed. Section VII has been superseded by the Lease and Lend Act. Section XII alone remains, providing the Administration with very useful powers of supervision over the export of raw materials for munitions. Looked at another way, the United States Congress has now given practical effect to President Roosevelt's assertion of the Freedom of the Seas as a vital principle of American policy. America has thus reverted back to the position when it felt compelled to enter the war in 1917, a condition which was sought to be prevented by the passing of the Neutrality Act of 1935.

It is stated in New York that American ships will be armed at the rate of 100 a month for the next four months and there is general expectation that immediately some United States merchantmen will be crossing the Atlantic direct to Great Britain with supplies and guns. The Battle of the Atlantic, which is already being won as may be seen from the reduced rate of losses of British shipping, will continue still further to be lost by Germany, thanks to this great act of America.

LABOUR TROUBLE IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The reason why the margin in favour of the modification of the Neutrality Act in the House of Representatives was so small was that there has been considerable discontent throughout the United States with the growth of labour troubles impeding war production. The Government have been blamed for over-indulgence towards labour excesses. Labour refuses to govern itself according to democratic principles. Employers, on the other hand, have been hesitating to accept the principle of collective bargaining and the Administration has looked upon the employees with some amount of distrust. Although the Administration has been dinning into the ears of the American public that there is a grave national emergency, there is still some hesitation to be realistic and that is why there is this labour and capital trouble. President Roosevelt has so far been unable to settle the coal-mines dispute and there are thousands of men who have abstained from work, thus very seriously affecting the steel trade. The coal mines strike is spreading and there are threats of sympathetic strikes. Grave anxiety is felt as regards the future of production and it is possible that the Government may think of formulating a drastic policy for dealing with

this evil. A bill has been introduced in the Senate under which the President is authorized to seize the coal mines owned by the steel companies. There is talk also of the introduction of another measure which would declare strikes illegal unless they are voted by a majority of workers in secret ballot, taken under Government supervision. The Administration may therefore be depended upon to act quickly if the situation deteriorates. Mr. Roosevelt has made an appeal to the employers and the workers to maintain the *status quo* as regards the 'closed shop' issue during the national emergency or submit to arbitration. If this fails, other steps would have to be taken.

RUSSIA

News from the Moscow front continues to be encouraging. No German successes have been reported. On the other hand, the Russians seem to have regained the initiative and there have been a number of vigorous and successful counter-attacks in the various sub-sectors of the front. The Russians firmly hold Kalinin, north of Moscow; they have just beaten off a pincers movement designed to take Tula in the south; and they have driven back the Germans attempting a frontal attack on the capital from Mojaisk. The German air raids on Moscow are proving costly to the enemy, the Soviets shooting down over thirty planes during one attack this week.

Leiningrad also continues to hold out, but the Germans are trying to isolate it and cut off all railway communication with the rest of Russia. Their attempts to join up with the Finns in the Karelian Isthmus have been foiled so far and, in fact, the Russians now claim a striking advance in the Karelian Peninsula. The Germans, following their success at Tikhvin, claim to have cut the Leningrad-Vologda railway but communications between that city and the rest of Russia are being maintained. If Leningrad is wholly isolated, the food problem will get acute as the winter advances, but the German army outside the city will also have to reckon with bitter cold and meagre supplies. German losses in the last four months around Leningrad are estimated at 200,000 men (killed or wounded) 1,500 air-planes and 700 tanks.

In the South, the Germans evidently hope to make further advances in the Donetz Basin, thanks to the temporary improvement in the weather, but so far all their efforts to take Rostov on the Don have been successfully countered by the Russians under Marshal Timoshenko. In the Crimea, however, the situation is more serious. With the fall of Kerch, at the eastern end of the Peninsula, the Germans may attempt to establish a bridgehead over the narrow Straits and penetrate the Caucasus. Alredy, Axis radio stations are announcing the bombing of Anapa and Tuapse, the Caucasian ports. But it is still a moot point whether the Germans will be able to cross the Straits. It is understood that a large part of the defenders of Kerch escaped across the Kerch Straits and will no doubt reinforce the already strong Russian forces in Caucasus. The Germans must accept terrible, almost crippling, losses if they want to cross the Straits and they must first establish complete air superiority. And Sebastopol, the great Russian naval base, will be a thorn on the German side. Unlike Kerch, with its hastily improvised earthworks and ancient fortifications, Sebastopol has a strong line of forts and adequate supplies of men and munitions. The Germans cannot hope to take the place by storm even with all of Von Rundstedt's tanks and Stuka dive-bombers. But by taking the rest of the Crimean Peninsula, they may neutralise the value of the naval base and compel the Russians to move their Black Sea Fleet to Novorossisk. Even then the Germans will have to liquidate the entire Fleet before they can safely launch a Caucasian drive. And unless Rostov is taken, Marshal Timoshenko's army will always threaten the German flank.

Meanwhile, supplies are being rushed to Russia by all possible routes and British aircraft and tanks will take an increasingly active part in the campaign. The Germans may yet find that, as before Moscow and before Leningrad, they are forced to undergo the trials of a Russian winter also on the southern front!

WORK OF THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE WAR

The work which is done by the Medical Services connected with the army and the Red Cross is most important, though almost unknown. A great measure of success has been attained among the Allied Powers in regard to the treatment of the wounded among civilians and soldiers, while recent reports more than suggest that Germany is facing considerable difficulties in the way of looking after those numerous people in civilian life and in the field who stand in need of medical and surgical assistance. It was stated, not many days ago, that the percentage of sickness in the Indian Army in North Malaya was less than the average of any army in the world. The task of caring after troops under tropical conditions, though they are not engaged in actual warfare, is very difficult. Again, a few weeks ago, it was stated that great improvement had taken place in the health of British troops in the Middle East as compared with the last war. These two facts are eloquent and testify to the efficiency and administrative capacity of the organizations concerned. As is well-known, the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem were amalgamated after the outbreak of the war and a joint executive committee is now in charge of providing medical relief and aid to the wounded. So far, over £7,000,000 has been contributed to the fund

by the public. Large organizations were established in France to supplement the hospital equipment of the fighting forces and Norway, Greece and other countries in need of help also secured large sums out of this fund. Convalescent homes have been established in Palestine, Cairo and Alexandria and large stores are being accumulated in South Africa to meet the needs of the sick and wounded from the Middle East. There was Red Cross work in Iraq and Iran and the Australian Red Cross is actively at work in Singapore for the Far East. It will be of interest to the public to know that in Great Britain 212 convalescent homes and auxiliary hospitals have been established, while large stores have been issued to hospitals all over the country so that no district will be left without the necessary hospital equipment in case of invasion or interruption of communications. The Red Cross is also busy in sending medical aid to Russia. An "Aid for Russia Fund" has been started in Great Britain. Russia has so far asked for nearly 1,000,000 pairs of artery forceps, 2,000,000 hypodermic needles, 500,000 pairs of surgical gloves and 3 tons of rubber tubes. Besides Russia has asked for many different drugs in vast quantities; of one drug alone, of which an average dose is five grains, Russia has asked for 16 tons.

The reasons why there is considerable deficiency in the organization in Germany in regard to this matter are not merely connected with the fact that Hitler has hurled his armies in different directions. In the first place, "non-Aryan" physicians, surgeons and research workers, many of whom were among the ablest and most devoted doctors in Germany, have been persecuted and sent out of the country. In the second place, the period of medical study in German medical institutions has been cut down by two years and it is stated that quacks and untrained nature-healers are now busy, with the connivance of the State, plying their trade. It is also stated that the Physics Faculty at Gottingen, most famous for research work, has been shut down. Further, medical research is not in fashion in Germany at the present day; while attention has been directed to research in chemical warfare, the work of research in medicine has been comparatively neglected. An authority on this subject says that this marked increase in epidemic sicknesses "can only be the result of a lack of administration and public welfare measures which has, in turn, produced a condition of hygienic neglect."

THE ARK ROYAL

The loss of the *Ark Royal* has been announced. This aircraft carrier was torpedoed by a U-boat and while in tow, went to the bottom of the sea on the 13th November. She had a displacement of 22,000 tons and a top speed of 32 knots. She was a powerful ship specially built to carry more aircraft than any other aircraft-carrier—normally between 60 to 70 planes. The ship's company was 1,600. *H.M.S. Courageous* was torpedoed and sunk in the Channel and *H.M.S. Glorious* was sunk by the German battle cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*. And the *Ark Royal* is the third aircraft-carrier to go down.

It is stated that over a hundred enemy planes had been shot down by the aircraft of the *Ark Royal*. At the end of September 1939 she was reported to have been sunk by enemy action by Germany and the claim was repeated on several other occasions—a lie which the German propagandists were never tired of repeating. The record of the aircraft-carrier was one of which the English should feel proud. She took part in the Norwegian campaign, pursued the Italian fleet in November 1940, took part in the naval bombardment of the port of Genoa in February 1941. Again, appearing in the Atlantic, the *Ark Royal* hunted the *Bismarck* in May 1941.

Luckily there was only one casualty and the rest of the crew were saved. Mr. A. V. Alexander of the Admiralty has stated: "We shall avenge the *Ark Royal* as we avenged the *Hood*."

The *Argus* (14,999 tons), the *Eagle* (22,000 tons), the *Hermes* (10,850 tons), the *Furious* (22,450 tons) and the *Illustrious* (23,000 tons) are the names of aircraft-carriers now in commission. There are also three others of the same class as the *Illustrious*.

AMERICA AND JAPAN

It is generally believed that the talks which are now proceeding in Washington between Mr. Kurusu, the special Japanese envoy, and the Secretary of State of the United States, Mr. Cordell Hull, will prove to be the turning point in the history of the relations between Japan and America. According to Mr. Cordell Hull, the conversations were still exploratory, only very general points in regard to Japanese-American relations being discussed. It cannot be doubted, however, that the speeches of the Premier and the Foreign Minister of Japan and the resolution of the Japanese House of Representatives cannot help in these negotiations. The resolution declares: 'The greatest obstacles towards a settlement of the China hostilities are the action of hostile nations led by the United States'. 'It is clear', proceeds the resolution, 'that the fundamental motivating force for the present conflict between the Axis powers and the British, American and Soviet nations is the inordinate desire of the United States for world hegemony.' The resolution pledges all-out support to the Government and expresses the belief that there is no chance of rising without fighting the battle through and adds: 'The unreasonable nature of the United States

Government's stand is apparent in its refusal to recognise, and its attempts to interfere with Japan's programme of attaining self-sufficiency, establishing her prosperity sphere and promoting peaceful, economic co-existence and co-prosperity among the Asiatic peoples." Conscription laws have been passed and a big budget has been adopted by the Parliament of Japan. Responsible Ministers have, by their speeches, very clearly indicated that Japan will not swerve from the path she has set for herself. Japan, it would appear, has made a demand on Indo-China that she should allow her to station a further 50,000 troops in Indo-China apart from the 45,000 troops which she had been authorised to station in that country.

The atmosphere, therefore, created by these bellicose utterances is not one in which negotiations can be carried on with any prospect of success. America's attitude is not likely to change on the question of China and at the Gallup poll taken recently 64 per cent answered "Yes" to the question "Should the United States take risks now to prevent Japan from becoming more powerful, even if this means risking a war with Japan?" Apparently Japan knows that she must act because the China affair has proved to be disastrous, and the freezing by Democratic powers has led to a grave economic situation in the country. Mr. Togo, Foreign Minister, has admitted that the situation confronting Japan as a result of the freezing of Japanese assets by America, the British Dominions and Colonies and the Netherlands East Indies has become intense. General Tojo, the Prime Minister, said that the freezing of the Japanese assets has not only gravely impeded a settlement of the China affair, but has gravely affected the existence of the empire itself.

THE A. B. C. D. FRONT

Meanwhile, the democracies are quite alive to the dangerous situation in the Far East and are preparing themselves. Canadian troops are now in Hongkong, an event of great importance showing that even distant Canada feels herself responsible for the safety of the Democracies, wherever they may be menaced. Mr. Mackenzie King, announcing the arrival in Hongkong of Canadian troops, said : "Defence against aggression, actual or threatened, in any part of the world is today part of the defence of every country which still enjoys freedom." "New Zeland expects a clash in the Pacific" declared Mr. Nash, New Zealand Finance Minister. Again, Mr. Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, stated on Monday, November 17 : "The danger to Australia in the Pacific is very very great. No Australian knows when we may be called upon to defend ourselves. Australia did not wish for war in the Pacific, but the decision does not rest with Australia. Only the enemy knows the enemy's plans. Australia is not taking any offensive in the Pacific but she is prepared to resist to the uttermost those taking the offensive." Mr. Eden has now told the Commons that a very grave situation will develop if the Burma Road is attacked. Further, men have been called to the colours in the Philippines, while defence measures in Thailand, where a Supreme Command has been created, are being brought up-to-date. America and Great Britain are following a determined policy in the Pacific. America has stated specifically that she would resist any further aggression. There has not, so far, been any announcement from American statesmen as to whether America would support Britain if Japan attacked Thailand or Burma, but America is quite alive to the seriousness of the danger of Japan's aggressive policy. Japan is in a dilemma. She can't give up her position in China without probably a fatal loss of prestige. Japan's "wild men" hesitate and this is a measure of the difficulties confronting the present Japanese policy.

CO-PROSPERITY

Japanese statesmen have been declaring that America should recognise Japan's position in the Far East. What is this position? What does the Co-prosperity drive mean? It means just that Order that Germany wishes to establish in Europe, herself being the dominant nation and the others round about becoming slave-states. The fact is Japan cannot be economically self-sufficient. The United States supplies Japan with one-third of her outside needs, including cotton, oil, steel products and machinery. She takes in return 90 per cent of the basic Japanese raw silk crop. Australia supplies Japan with two-thirds of her wool requirements which are essential for the army. The British Empire supplies 20 per cent of Japanese needs and takes 20 per cent of Japanese exports. Should Japan subdue China and exploit Manchukuo fully, they would only provide raw cotton and iron ore, leaving Japan's other essential needs unsatisfied, if she entered into a combat with the democracies. Japan is now short of shipping disabling her from continuing her trade with the Latin American Republics. Self-sufficiently as an ideal, if pursued, would necessarily drive Japan into an ever-widening circle of aggression. It is unthinkable that Great Britain or America or the Netherlands East Indies or China or New Zealand or Australia would be a party to this policy of aggression.

INVASION SEASON, 1941

WHAT HITLER HAS TO FACE

On 18th June 1940, when the Battle of France was over, Mr. Churchill warned his countrymen that "the whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned upon us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this Island or lose the war." Thanks to the intrepid pilots of the Royal Air Force, the then numerically superior *Luftwaffe* was beaten in its attempts to "blitz" Britain as it had done in other parts of Europe. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," said Mr. Churchill in a memorable tribute to British airmen. Hitler, who had fixed 15th August 1940, for his entry into London, met his first big reverse. In an effort to explain away his defeat, he told his followers (on 4th September 1940): "Naturally, I shall always prepare everything cleverly, cautiously and conscientiously, you may rest assured." If anyone puts the question today in Britain, "Why does not he come, we reply, "Calm yourselves; he is coming." It was, however, obvious that all his "clever, cautious and conscientious" preparations could not succeed against Britain's defences and Mr. Churchill could not resist having a fling at the Nazi braggart on 21st October 1940: "Our air force is more than holding its own and we are waiting for the long-promised invasion—so are the fishes."

But the Prime Minister has never encourged complacency or slackness in his countrymen. He has been repeatedly warning them to expect an invasion by Hitler's hordes. "Perhaps it will come tonight. Perhaps it will come next week. Perhaps it will never come," he said some time ago. "We must show ourselves equally capable of meeting a sudden, violent shock, or, what is perhaps a harder test, a prolonged vigil." There is a tendency to think that "Invasion Season, 1941" is just an idle catch-phrase and that the danger which loomed so large a year ago is now past. Mr. Churchill has sternly discouraged this tendency.

After the fall of France in June 1940, Hitler turned his attention to the invasion of Britain. While the *Luftwaffe* tried to blaze a trail for the invaders to follow, the German armies were marshalled near the Channel ports to practise embarkation and disembarkation with fleets of barges. But a stern lesson was in store for the Fuehrer. In 1803, Napoleon began to make similar preparations, openly boasting that the English Channel was "but a ditch, and anyone can cross it who has but the courage to try." But the blockading British fleet kept Napoleon on the wrong side of the "ditch" long enough to make him change his mind and lead his forces first south-east against Austria, then east against Russia. In 1940, Hitler's vanguard—the *Luftwaffe*—actually crossed the "ditch" (Calais to Dover is only five minutes' flight in these days), but it returned just as fast as it had come, only rather less numerous and in less orderly formation. Royal Air Force bombs broke up the invasion barge concentrations in the Channel ports and Hitler emulated Napoleon by moving first south-east against the Balkans, then east against Russia. Since June 22, 1941, Hitler has lost tanks, planes and guns by the thousand, men by the lakh, on the eastern front. As a consequence, there is a dangerous tendency to believe that the invasion bogey has been banished for ever from the shores of Britain and that, like Napoleon, Hitler will soon be leading a defeated and dispirited army in another ragged retreat from Moscow to meet his end finally at another Waterloo.

HITLER'S HOPES

This is just what Hitler wants. Hitler hopes that, while he loses two or three million men in Russia—a mere bagatelle in the calculations of a man who is gambling to gain control of 1,500 million people—Britain will, with a sigh of relief, sink back in a chair and fold her arms. Then, when the prospect of invasion seems most remote, he will unleash the scores of divisions that still stand ready on the Western Front. It is an accepted belief that, if Hitler were to subdue Russia, he would proceed with the invasion of Britain. But German *failure* in Russia might have the same result. The more desperate the situation of Hitler's armies in the East, the more urgent will be the necessity to seek victory in another field, in order to offset the dangerous effect of the poison of defeatism on the spirits of the German people. The industrial resources of an entire continent are at Hitler's command. He has twelve million men under arms and a mobilizable reserve of some four millions. Only a third of these (170 divisions) have so far been engaged on the Eastern Front; the rest are mainly concentrated in Northern Europe—in occupied France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Southern Norway. If the need arose, Axis partners Italy, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria could, between them, muster close on ten million fighting men. Four Air Fleets of the *Luftwaffe* are engaged in Russia; the remaining three (about 5,000 planes) could be used for invasion purposes.

This is not to say that Hitler faces an easy problem. To throw an invading force across the English Channel, or—worse still—the North Sea, the German High Command must achieve either overwhelming superiority in the air, or complete command of the sea, preferably both. Both in Norway and in Crete, the British Navy performed prodigies of valour and sank numerous German troop transports. But some of them got through the Skaggerak

to Norway where the treachery of Quislings and the undisputed German superiority in air made the task of the British expeditionary force well-nigh hopeless from the start. And though British warships prevented a sea-borne invasion of Crete, the almost complete lack of British air support made a successful airborne invasion inevitable. The balance of air power was tipped so heavily in favour of the Nazis that the British army in the field within the area affected could do little but fight a kind of magnificent rear-guard action, inflicting terrific casualties on the Germans.

HITLER'S PROBLEMS

An invasion of Britain is, however, a different proposition. Mr. Churchill has just announced that the Royal Air Force has reached numerical parity with the German air force. It has most assuredly established British air supremacy over the Channel. And the British Home Fleet stands, as it did in the days of Napoleon, between the invader and his coveted prize. Hitler must land an army and maintain a current of supplies for even a lightning campaign. For that he would have to establish a reasonably safe corridor across the water and hold it against attacks by the British Navy for not less than four weeks.

How does Hitler hope to achieve that? His hopes are based on the chance of laying two broad belts of mines across the narrows of the English Channel and ferrying his troops between them. Long-range coastal batteries, E-boats and dive-bombers would, he hopes, prevent the Royal Navy from sweeping up the minefields. Simultaneous diversions would be provided by attempted surprise landings at widely-separated points on the east and south-west coasts of the island by forces at present based in south-western Norway and north-western France. Hitler tried to establish air superiority over Britain last autumn and failed; but that does not mean he has lost hope of success at a second or a third attempt. There is also the question of the French Fleet, which at the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 was half as big again as its German counterpart. The Darlan-Laval clique may yet carry their policy of betrayal to the point of surrendering to Hitler the French warships still under the orders of the Vichy Government. These could be employd under the swastika to create a diversion in the Atlantic by inviting a full-scale naval action, just as warships of the Italian Navy were sacrificed at Matapan to distract attention from the dispatch of German troops to Libya last April. Before heavy armoured fighting vehicles can be landed in large numbers and at high speed, port facilities must be secured. For that reason, the invasion campaign would probably open with an air-borne landing behind one of the south coast ports, the intention being to seize the docks and make a bridgehead to shield the disembarkation of troops and heavy equipment. In Crete we were shown to what extent Hitler is prepared to sacrifice men and machines to achieve a similar objective. Troop-carriers crash-landed in scores; hundreds of para-troops were killed before their feet touched the ground. But the attack was pressed home successfully. For the invasion of Poland Hitler used no less than 52 divisions. In that instance he had no stretch of salt water to cross, air opposition was largely eliminated in the first few days of the campaign and he was opposed by smaller forces than those at his command. How many more troops he will need to crush the life out of Britain may be imagined when it is remembered that he must immobilize an army (including the Home Guard) of close on four millions.

Then there is the question of supplies—transport, equipment, food, munitions. A German mechanized force of even five divisions would comprise 1,800 tanks, 10,000 vehicles and 1,000 motor cycles. More than 1,000 barges would be needed to transport such a force which, in the first week of operations, would consume more than 2,500,000 gallons of petrol alone. Barges transporting the armada would be at sea for three hours on the shortest route (Calais to Kent) and 50 hours on the longest route (Norway to Scotland). Throughout the voyage and during embarkation at the outset of the voyage they would be under constant bombardment from warships, warplanes and shore batteries. And it is comforting to know that the British have more naval guns than all the rest of the world put together. Royal Air Force attacks on the invasion ports in September 1940, according to neutral observers, reduced the assembled fleet of transporting craft to one-third and destroyed two-fifths of the accumulated stores and ammunition. There will be no fifth column ready to help Hitler gain a foothold, as there was in Norway; no lack of air opposition, as there was in Crete; no refugee problem, as there was in the low countries and France; no German numerical superiority, as there has been in every campaign except the Russian.

ENGLAND READY

But, in the words of the Premier, "when we see the originality of malice and the ingenuity of aggresson which our enemy displays, we may certainly prepare ourselves for every kind of novel strategy and every kind of brutal and treacherous manoeuvre." No idea is so outlandish that it should not be reckoned with. Gigantic preparations in Germany suggest that she intends attempting an air-borne invasion of unprecedented magnitude by gliders. The production of gliders in Germany far exceeds the normal and all silk has been requisitioned for parachutes. While few German experts believe that such an invasion would finally succeed, there is a general belief that the dropping of thousands

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THE NEW OFFENSIVE IN LIBYA

MR. CHURCHILL'S STATEMENT

Mr. Winston Churchill made the following statement in the House of Commons on Thursday last regarding the new offensive in Libya :—

"The House will, I am sure, have been interested to learn from the Cairo communiqué that an offensive against the German and Italian armies on the Libyan Front has begun.

"This offensive has been long elaborately prepared and we have waited nearly five months in order that our army should be well-equipped with all those weapons which have made their mark in this new war.

"There is nothing in the world quite like the war conditions prevailing in the Libyan Desert in which far-ranging movements are only possible by the extraordinary use of armour, air power and mechanization. The conditions are in many respects like those of a sea war. The principal units involved keep wireless silence when preparing and making their rapid and extensive movements. The encounter, when it is achieved, is like a clash of fleets and flotillas and as in a sea battle all may be settled one way or another in the course of two hours.

"If in this case enemy armour is destroyed or seriously defeated and his air power is dominated, the plight of his infantry and artillery, crowded in the coastal region, would evidently become serious in some respects. The object of the British and Empire offensive is not so much the occupation of this or that locality, but the destruction of the armed, and primarily of armoured, force of the enemy.

"For this purpose the Army of the Western Desert took up its preliminary station on a broad front, from the sea to the Jarabub Oasis and all was in readiness by nightfall on the seventeenth. At dawn on the eighteenth, a general advance began. Very heavy and exceptional rains hampered the movement of our forces which had great distances to cover. These rains, however, appear to have been far more heavy in the coastal region than in the desert and may well prove more harmful to the enemy than to us. During the eighteenth, our Army came into contact with enemy outposts at many points and it seemed certain that the enemy were taken completely by surprise. The Desert Army is now favourably situated for a trial of strength.

"I do not know up to the present whether this trial has actually begun or taken place between the heavy armoured forces, but evidently it cannot be long delayed. It is far too soon to indulge in any exultation. General Auchinleck, with General Cunningham in command under him of the Eighth Army, has made a brilliant and successful strategic approach and has gained positions of marked advantage. All now depends on the battle which follows. It is evident that the next few days will see developments which will include many highly interesting features.

"One thing is certain—all ranks of the British and Empire troops involved are animated by the long pent-up and ardent desire to engage the enemy and they will fight with the utmost resolve and devotion, feeling as they all do that this is the first time we have met the Germans at least equaly well-armed and equipped and realizing the part that a British victory in Libya will play upon the whole course of the war." (Loud cheers.)

PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS

The following is the text of the Prime Minister's message to all ranks of the Army and R.A.F. in the Western Desert and to the Mediterranean Fleet :—

"I have it in command from the King to express to all ranks of the Army and Royal Air Force in the Western Desert and to the Mediterranean Fleet, His Majesty's confidence that they will do their duty with exemplary devotion in the supremely important battle which lies before them.

"For the first time British and Empire troops will meet Germans with ample equipment in modern weapons of all kinds. The battle itself will affect the whole course of the war. Now is the time to strike the hardest blow yet struck for final victory, home and freedom. The Desert Army may add a page to history which will rank with Blenheim and with Waterloo. The eyes of all nations are upon you. All our hearts are with you. May God uphold the right."

FEATURES OF THE CAMPAIGN

The advance, in which the Empire troops, including India, are taking part, is on a front of over 150 miles. The area includes Sollum in the south to the Oasis of Jarabub.

There is close and constant co-operation by the Navy which is bombarding Halfaya Pass.

(Continued on page 11)

MIGHT AND MAIN

ALLIES, GATHERING STRENGTH, ADOPT OFFENSIVE SPIRIT

The Royal Air Force has reached numerical parity with the Luftwaffe. The Royal Navy is now strong enough to send a powerful battle fleet, if needed, into the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The Army, with its own air arm, with many armoured divisions and with a large and highly trained force of paratroops, is ready to go into action in defence of Britain, the Far East or the Middle East or in offensive operations ordered by the War Cabinet.

A powerful factor in facilitating and encouraging this offensive spirit has been and continues to be American aid. In two years—thanks largely to Hitler—America has changed her outlook from the isolationism of the ostrich to the realism of the tiger, " a realism," as the President told the International Labour Conference, " in terms of three shifts daily; the full use of every vital machine every day and every night; a realism in terms of staying on the job and getting things made." *In 1939 the cry was Cash and Carry. A year later it was Lease and Lend. Now legislation is in force, changing the slogan to Convoy and Call, with American warships escorting armed American merchantmen into the combat zone to be unloaded at Allied quays.*

In January 1940, America exported 41 military aircraft to Britain. In August 1940, 278 were delivered. In August 1941, the total sent to Britain, Russia and other participants in the United States of America Lease-Lend programme was 1,533. This great speed-up of deliveries has enabled the Royal Air Force to build up a large reserve force, which in turn has made possible offensive operations on a scale much larger than was possible twelve, or even six, months ago. *Since the Eastern Front was set ablaze in June the Royal Air Force has maintained the weight of its western Front offensive at nearly five times what it was in January.* In the war against shipping alone, home-based aircraft have sunk or damaged 332 enemy vessels in the past six months.

The Royal Navy has more than recovered from the crippling blow it suffered when the help of the French Fleet was withdrawn last year. Then the Mediterranean was the most dangerous area. *Now the Nazi-controlled Danish radio feels obliged to admit that " Cunningham, despite heavy losses, is still master of the Mediterranean ".* Any doubts about this were answered on November 9 when nine out of ten Axis supply ships crossing the Central Mediterranean were sunk and the tenth was set afire; one escorting destroyer was sunk and a second severely damaged; two heavy cruisers were put to flight. *Cunningham carried out this daring action right on Mussolini's front door-step and returned to his base unscathed. If the Japanese Fleet is ordered to clear its decks for action it knows what to expect.* Tokyo now knows that, should the United States become involved in war with Japan, the British declaration will follow within the hour.

Meanwhile, Anglo-American aid flows across the Soviet frontier in an ever-widening stream. The boldness of conception of Churchill's war strategy is exemplified by his reply to Beaverbrook's sorrowful statement that Britain could not spare all the aluminium Stalin had asked for. " Give it," said Churchill; " take the risk ".

INVASION SEASON, 1941—(*Continued from Page* 7)

of desperate men with high explosives to sever all vital communications would be a terrible calamity for Britain. The answer to all this is that the men of the Royal Air Force say that they only hope the Germans will come by air in mass, their confidence in their ability to shoot the enemy out of the sky being unbounded. Mr. Vincent Sheean, the famous publicist, in an article in an American magazine, says that, in an operation so great and so hazardous, we may expect the Germans, who have revealed a contempt for human life in all their enterprises so far, to use the dreadful weapons of chemical and bacteriological warfare. But these weapons are double-edged. Two can play at the same game and the use of poison-gas will recoil on the user. In any event, Mr. Churchill and his Government have neglected no arrangements to meet every kind of weapon which Hitler may decide to employ and we may with confidence await the result of any attempt at invasion of Britain.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 1—8, 1941

AUSTRALIA ASPERSED AGAIN

" General Blamey is going to Australia to convince the Australian Cabinet that Britain requires more Anzac soldiers ".—(*German News in English, November* 4).

" This careful refusal of the Australian Government to help Britain is of great political significance".—(*German News in English, November* 7).

Mr. Curtin informed the House of Representatives on November 5 that Gen. Blamey's visit to Australia was to discuss the Pacific defence with Mr. Duff Cooper and others, and Australians need have no anxiety as to any slackening of effort in the Middle East Sector. Said Sir Earle Page, the Australian representative in London, on October 30:— " Although the Australian Government's personnel has recently changed, Australia's war effort has remained constant at 100 per cent." Again on November 3 he declared: " Australia's preparedness for the war is now greater than ever." Over 450,000 men were serving in the armed forces. Over 60,000 were in the Australian Air Force. Since the war, production of munition had increased by at least twenty times.

MISCELLANEOUS MENDACITIES

" The British blockade of Marseilles is intended to starve out the men, women and children of France. There can be no other purpose served by it."—(*German News in English, November* 5).

Looter No. 1 of unarmed and innocent victims, Berlin wishes to pose as the humane sympathiser of a country which she is ceaselessly striving to cow with hangmen and Quislings. The enemy " purchasing " commission in Marseilles requisitions 80 per cent of the incoming cargoes, not for use in France but for bomb-gutted Germany. Why were three of the Vichy ships recently captured by the British Navy in such a desperate hurry to scuttle themselves? American and British policy is to allow necessities through which are genuinely meant for France's internal consumption. The answer is simple: Those ships were engaged in a furtive and illicit attempt either to evade American control which insists on the distribution of food in French Africa under American supervision, or to run the British blockade, which justifiably enough insists that Vichy ships must not be used to carry goods for enemy use.

" All the air raids of the Royal Air Force over the Channel coast proved ineffective".—(*German News in Hindustani, November* 5.)

To refer only to one tiny aspect of the Royal Air Force activity over the Channel: Between 1,500 and 2,000 Royal Air Force sorties have kept the *Scharnhost*, *Gneisenau*, and *Prinz Eugen* still maimed and limp in the docks of Brest and unable to escape even to a remoter oblivion. The Royal Air Force fighters now carry bombs as well as machine guns and cannon in their offensive sweeps over the Channel and elsewhere.

" Roosevelt intoxicates himself on words which are not followed by deeds".—(*German News in English, November* 7).

On November 6, President Roosevelt declared in a broadcast to the I. L. O. :— " The epic stand of Britain, China and Russia will receive the full support of the free peoples of America". Few hours later he authorized a thousand million dollar, interest-free loan to Russia.

ARABESQUE OF LIES

" Britain is already taking steps to prepare the establishment of a Jewish State comprising Transjordan, Palestine and Syria."—(*German News in Arabic and Persian, November* 3).

As far back as May 1939 His Majesty's Government declared " unequivocally that it is not a part of their policy that Palestine should become a Jewish State."

More recently the voice of sound statesmanship and ripe wisdom, qualities which Berlin cannot now assess owing to a local dearth of it, made itself heard from South Africa and Transjordan. If there had been a vestige of truth in the German assertion, Emir Abdulla would not have said, as he did on October 30 : " For the time being the efforts of all Arabs should be concentrated on helping Britain to win the war." On November 2, Field Marshal Smuts, pleading for a larger vision on world issues, hoped that the Jewish problem might be resolved " as part of the prospect of a large Arab confederation in the Middle East."

A PROPHET AT WORK

November 1940

" In half a year I will talk to you again and you will see that my **prophecy of victory** will have been **correct.**"—(*Goebbels to Scandinavian correspondents in Berlin.*)

March 1941

" I affirm again that **before the year is over** Germany will **finish** the war."—(*Goebbels to Spanish correspondents in Berlin.*)

November 1941

" This question **how** the war is going **to end** is more important than the question **when ?** " —(*Goebbels in an article in ' Das Reich '.*)

THE NEW OFFENSIVE IN LIBYA—(*Continued from page* 8)

The Royal Air Force is playing a big part in the operations. Already 18 enemy planes have been destroyed, including five enemy troop-carriers.

The garrison at Tobruk has already advanced ten miles and captured a town.

Tobruk, which may well be expected to be relieved after many months of great endurance, will again become a strong base to which supplies and reinforcements can be taken by sea.

The first reactions to this drive have been srtiking. In Singapore, there is considerable satisfaction and it is stated that Japanese expectations that while she strikes east or south, the Axis would strike in the Middle East are bound to be grievously disappointed. In the Dominions and America the news has created a sensation. It is considered to be a well-timed move to frustrate a possible Berlin-Vichy surprise in North Africa.

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

14th Nov.—Royal Air Force fighters attack gun-positions in occupied France and aircraft on the ground.

Nazi raiders drop bombs indiscriminately on the streets of a north-east Scottish town.

15th Nov.—Military and industrial targets in Northern France are again bombed by the Royal Air Force.

A German raider is shot down into the sea off the East Coast of England.

It is stated that 262 persons in all were killed (or are missing) in air raids over Britain during October. A further 361 were injured.

16th Nov.—The Royal Air Force raids Emden and other ports in north-west Germany in spite of trying weather conditions, bombs the docks at Boulogne and lays mines in enemy waters.

In scattered enemy raids by a small number of single aircraft, two German bombers are destroyed off the East Coast of England.

17th Nov.—Britain has a raid-free night.

The Royal Air Force raids factories and other targets in Northern France. A large German supply-ship off the south coast of Norway is successfully attacked.

18th Nov.—The sudden death is announced of the German air "ace", General Udet. He meets with an accident while testing a new type of plane.

Royal Air Force bombs a number of targets in Northern France.

19th Nov.—The Royal Air Force bombs docks at Brest.

Enemy air activity over Britain is on a slight scale—at points on the East Anglian Coast and in south-east England.

20th Nov.—No casualties result from stray enemy raids on two eastern coastal points in Britain.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

14th Nov.—The capture of Kamant Hill, 13 miles nort-east of Gondar, is announced by the British G.H.Q. at Nairobi.

H.M.S. *Ark Royal*, the 22,000 tons aircraft-carrier with an impressive record in the Royal Navy, is torpedoed and sunk east of Gibraltar (near the place where a Spanish vessel was sunk three days earlier by a U-boat). Of her complement of 1,600, only one is dead.

The Royal Air Force attacks Naples, Syracuse (in Sicily), Benghazi and Derna, while the South African Air Force bombs enemy positions in Abyssinia.

15th Nov.—"We shall avenge the Ark Royal as we avenged the Hood," says Mr. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Royal Air Force raids Derna, Bardia, Barce and Martuba.

Gen. Pricolo, Chief of the Italian Air Staff, is relieved of his duties and succeeded by Gen. Rino.

There is neither damage nor casualty when enemy planes dive-bomb the eastern sector of the Tobruk defences.

The British stranglehold on Gondar tightens, the Italians evacuating Janguar.

16th Nov.—Marshal Badoglio is dismissed from his last official post as President of the Italian National Research Council.

It is officially announced that a new British army has been formed in the Western Desert, called the Eighth Army.

17th Nov.—Gen. Sikorski, Polish Premier, returns to Cairo after two days with the Polish and Empire troops at Tobruk.

Deserters from Gondar report a mutiny among the Italian Colonial Infantry.

18th Nov.—British Columns, advancing from the Sudan, start artillery attacks on enemy positions in Abyssinia. The Italian garrison of Gorgogra near Lake Tsana is called upon to surrender.

Italy admits that Naples has been raided in successive waves at night by the Royal Air Force.

19th Nov.—It is officially announced that British Imperial Forces have penetrated 50 miles into Cyrenaica, the enemy being taken by surprise.

20th Nov.—The British advance, supported by the Navy and the Air Force, continues towards Tobruk.

British forces, attacking the last Italian positions in Abyssinia, take Venticinque.

British submarines torpedo four enemy supply ships in the Mediterranean.

The U-Boat which sank the *Ark Royal* is destroyed by the British corvette *Marigold*. Thirty-four German sailers are made prisoners of war.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

15th Nov.—New York papers report that 100 American merchantmen will be armed every month for the next four months.

The American Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce reports that 330 million dollars worth of war planes and aeronautical equipment were delivered to Britain in the first eight months of this year.

The British freighter Nottingham (9,000 tons) is torpedoed and sunk on her maiden voyage to America.

Mr. Averill Harriman leaves the United States for London to expedite Lease-Lend deliveries to Britain. He says "Enormous supplies are going to Russia from Britain as well as from the United States."

"American seamen are at battle-stations in their ships," declares Col. Knox, Secretary for the United States Navy.

President Roosevelt confers with Mr. Stimson, Secretary for War, thus giving rise to rumours that the Army will take over the "captive" coal-mines (that is, those owned by steel companies) where a strike by over 50,000 men is threatened on the question of union membership.

New York City practises air raid drill.

16th Nov.—Negotiations for a settlement of the American coal mines dispute close without any agreement.

The Executive of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, one of the two large American labour organizations, offers its complete support to President Roosevelt in his policy of aid to the nations fighting Hitler.

17th Nov.—President Roosevelt signs the Neutrality Revision Bill.

Mr. Roosevelt asks Congress for an additional appropriation of 6,687 million dollars for Army equipment. He also recommends that the War Secretary be enabled to make dispositions under the Lease-Lend Act of any equipment bought for the Army since 11th March 1941.

The American coal strike begins, the United Mine Workers' Union defying President Roosevelt's declaration that coal "must" be mined.

The German motorship Odenwald (5,098 tons), masquerading as an American ship, is seized in South Atlantic by the United States Navy despite attempts to scuttle herself, and is brought to a port in Puerto Rico.

18th Nov.—The National Convention of the C.I.O. pledges support to President Roosevelt's foreign policy. The President, in a message to the Convention, says that the Government are determined to see that guns, tanks, planes and ships are produced without delay.

Col. Knox announces that ships plying from and to Britain and Northern Europe would be the first American merchantmen to be armed; then would come ships going to the Red Sea; and, third, ships for the South Atlantic.

United States warships sink or capture numerous German U-boats in a big naval battle with surface and submarine raiders off the Coast of Iceland, on the Norwegian approaches to Russian ports. A number of Mosquito-boat carriers are also sunk.

United States naval patrols are on the look-out for an Axis raider that is reported to have sunk a Yugoslav cargo ship in the Panama Canal zone.

19th Nov.—Mr. Roosevelt appeals to the executives of the steel companies and the United Mine Workers Union to maintain the *status quo* as regards their dispute during the national emergency or to submit to arbitration.

Three new American "Eagle" air squadrons are formed in Britain.

20th Nov.—The Steel companies agree to accept either of the two alternatives proposed by Mr. Roosevelt.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

14th Nov.—The Russians regain the initiative on the Moscow front and drive the Germans out of several prepared positions. A fierce battle is reported outside Kerch in the Crimea but the other German thrust towards the Caucasus is held outside Rostov on the Don.

M. Litvinov, Russia's new Ambassador to America, Mr. Steinhardt, American Ambassador to Russia, and Sir Walter Monckton of the British Ministry of Information are safe though the plane carrying them from Kujbyshev to Cairo makes a forced landing at Pahlevi in Iran.

15th Nov.—The Germans throw in more troops on the Moscow front but the Russians not only stand firm but launch several counter-attacks. No fewer than 31 German planes are shot down for the loss of five Soviet planes when the enemy attempts an air raid on Moscow. The Germans claim a further advance around Sebastopol and Kerch despite tough resistance.

16th Nov.—The Russians forestall a German offensive with a series of offensive thrusts and recapture many villages in the Moscow sector. A violent German attack on the Kalinin front is beaten off and the Russians hold Tula despite pressure from the north-west and south-east. The Russian Air Force destroys German

supply columns near Leningrad. But German pressure near Tikhvin continues and the Germans say they have cut the Leningrad-Vologda railway. Further north, an enemy attempt to cross from the Rybachi Peninsula to the Murmansk coast is thwarted and 20 Axis ships are sunk. On the Crimean front, the Germans claim to have captured a strongly defended fort near Sebastopol but, in the Don Basin, Soviet resistance is as stiff as ever.

17th Nov.—Soviet troops advance several miles on the Karelian front and stop the German drive to Moscow at all points. But the Germans take the harbour town of Kerch in the Crimea and claim over a hundred thousand prisoners. It is revealed that Leningrad is not completely surrounded and still has communication with the rest of Russia.

Dr. Rosenberg is appointed Reich Minister for occupied Russian territory.

18th Nov.—The Germans claim that, with an improvement in the weather, they have occupied further areas in the Donetz Basin. But two attempts to take Rostov are repulsed by the Russians with heavy losses. The Germans make air raids on Sebastopal and Leningrad. Both these towns continue to beat off all German attacks. And in the Moscow sector the situation is now much better for the Russians as a result, especially, of counter-attacks near Tula. In the extreme south, German planes bomb the Caucasian ports of Anapa and Tuapse but it is now evident that Russian troops in Kerch have been safely evacuated to reinforce the Caucasian garrisons.

The Russian Foreign office denies that the Soviet Government presented any new demands to Finland after the conclusion of peace between the two nations last year.

19th Nov.—A Nazi flank attack on Rostov fails and another near Volokolamsk in the Moscow sector is beaten off. The Germans attempt to drive a wedge in the Soviet defences near Tula and also to advance eastwards from Oniel, 200 miles south of Moscow.

20th Nov.—The Russians recapture many strategic heights in the Crimea. It is revealed they have withdrawn all troops, equipment and stores in perfect order from Kerch. A new Nazi offensive fails in the Kalinin region but fierce battles take place both near Volokolamsk and near Tula where small German advances are effected only at tremendoues cost.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAN, IRAQ, SYRIA, ETC.

15th Nov.—Brigadier General Wheeler and Brigadier General Maxwell of the United States Army arrive in Manila, *en route* to the Middle East to collaborate respectively with General Wavell and General Auchinleck.

16th Nov.—Captain Oliver Lyttelton, British Minister of State in the Middle East, addressing British delegates to the Middle East Supply Centre, says:—" Cut out luxuries of life and stimulate local production to the utmost, use only essentials for existence, cut down demands for imports in the most drastic manner, hasten the turn round of our ships so that they may not lose one precious hour in port ".

It is stated that Britain is to supply Turkey with 75,000 tons of wheat; 20,000 tons of this total have already been delivered in British ships to the Turkish port of Mersine.

18th Nov.—The Turkish press warns Bulgaria that British help is near if the Bulgarians attempt to enter Turkish Thrace as hinted by the Vice-President of the Bulgarian Parliament.

Dr. Schmidt, Press Chief of the German Foreign Office, arrives in Ankara and calls on the Turkish Foreign Minister.

Iraq decides to break off relations with Japan and Vichy, following investigations into the activities of their representatives at Baghdad during the Rashid Ali rebellion.

SHIPPING

15th Nov.—In a message to the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, President Roosevelt calls for " ships, ships and more ships ", and Mr. Knudsen, head of the Office of Production Management, says " As long as you keep the line open to England, Hitler cannot win."

It is announced that the American liner *George Washington* (23,000 tons) has been transferred to Britain.

17th Nov.—Mr. Duff Cooper, British Minister on a special mission to the Far East, inspects shipyards at Sydney and pays a tribute to the great and expanding shipbuilding industry in Australia.

THE FAR EAST

14th Nov.—The Japanese Cabinet meets and considers the country's biggest war budget ever.

Mr. Kurusu, Special Japanese Envoy, arrives in San Francisco.

President Roosevelt announces that the United States has decided to withdraw the Marines stationed at Shanghai, Tientsin and Peiping in China. This decision does not affect the gun-boats on the Yangtze river, in charge of the American Navy.

Russia rejects as not proven the Japanese protest against the sinking of the liner Kebi Maru by alleged Soviet mines.

Following the Chinese Military Spokesman's warning that China will bomb Indo-China if the Japanese forces there launch an attack on Yunnan, the Chinese Province through which the Burma Road runs, General Ma Chan-shan reveals China's determination to recover her lost territories in Manchuria.

15th Nov.—The Japanese Diet commences a five-day session to discuss the international situation.

A Supreme Command for National Defence is created in Thailand with the Premier as Supreme Commander.

16th Nov.—Gen. Tojo, the Japanese Premier, in his capacity as War Minister, and Admiral Shemada, Navy Minister, report to the Diet on the progress of the China war.

Canadian troops arrive in Hongkong to reinforce the British garrison.

17th Nov.—Mr. Kurusu, Japan's Special Envoy, and Admiral Nomura, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, call on Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, and then on President Roosevelt.

Both Gen. Tojo and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Togo, justify Japan's policy in China and East Asia in addresses to the Diet and express resentment at British and American pressure that "affects the very existence of our Empire."

Marshal Chiang Kai-shek declares in Chungking that Japan's only chance of salvation lies in the abandonment of aggression and the withdrawal of her troops from China. In a message to the Burma press, the Marshal says "The enemy is looking to the south, I hope you are well prepared."

Further reinforcements arrive in Singapore from India.

18th Nov.—The Japanese House of Representatives approves a resolution, pledging all-out support to the Government's policy and blaming the "unreasonable" attitude of the United States. The budget is passed by both Houses of the Diet, as also certain emergency war-time measures.

Admiral Nomura, after a further conference with Mr. Cordel Hull, says he is "still hopeful" about reaching an understanding with America.

Dr. Quo Tai-chi, Chinese Foreign Minister, states that there can be no common basis for negotiations between Japan and America so long as the former is not prepared to abandon her aggressive policy.

Japan demands authority to station 50,000 more troops in Indo-China.

Border clashes between Thailand police and French *gendarmes* (who attempted to cross over from Indo-China) are reported.

19th Nov.—The Japanese allege that a Soviet unit has penetrated into Manchukuoan territory.

The United States-Japan talks continue at Washington, where Mr. Cordell Hull also confers with representatives of other "A. B. C. D." powers.

20th Nov.—Mr. Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, expresses "complete confidence in the United States spokesman" in the Washington talks with Japan, which are resumed. He had previously declared that an attack on the Burma Road would create a grave situation.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

14th Nov.—The British Ministry of Economic Warfare states that the five Vichy ships recently intercepted by the Royal Navy off the South African coast carried war materials.

15th Nov.—Gen. de Gaulle outlines "The Free French Charter" at a mass meeting of his countrymen in London, and pledges full support to Britain in the war.

16th Nov.—While Gen. Juin (who arrives in Vichy on the invitation of the French Government) is freely tipped as the next War Minister, Gen. Weygand also arrives in Vichy from North Africa.

The German Envoy, Abetz, meets Laval and then lunches with Marshal Petain at Vichy before returning to occupied France.

17th Nov.—Gen. Weygand reports to Marshal Petain on his recent conversations with the late War Minister (Gen. Huntziger). It is believed that the Germans favour Gen. Weygand's appointment as War Minister but it is not thought he would willingly relinquish his strategic post in North Africa.

Gen. Gamelin, former French Commander-in-Chief, is reported to be ill and in a hospital.

18th Nov.—Dr. Dalton, British Minister for Economic Warfare, affirms that it would be impossible for blockade purposes, to distinguish between occupied and unoccupied France. Intercepted French ships are to be retained as reprisal for the unlawful detention of British, Allied and neutral vessels by the Vichy Government at the conclusion of the armistice with Germany.

19th Nov.—It is reported from London and Washington that Gen. Weygand is dismissed from his post.

20th Nov.—It is officially announced in Vichy that Gen. Weygand has " retired ". A reshuffle of civil and military posts in French Africa is also announced.

The United States declares that it is reviewing its entire relations with Vichy, consequent on the removal of Gen. Weygand and the growth of German control over French Africa.

OTHER OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

14th Nov.—Five Czechs are hanged in Bruno on a charge of economic sabotage.

Five Norwegians are condemned to death in Oslo for alleged help to some of their countrymen to escape to Britain.

Dr. Matchek, the Croat leader, is sent to a concentration camp in Austria.

17th Nov.—It is revealed that a German expeditionary force, 320 strong, has been wiped out by a battalion of Serbian sharp-shooter guerilla fighters around the ruined town of Lebane, south of Nish. While the Germans rush in further reinforcements and arrest intellectuals as hostages, all guerilla bands unite under the supreme command of Col. Mihailovitch, who plans an offensive against all the enemy garrisons in Yugoslavia.

18th Nov.—Dr. Seyss-Inquart, Nazi Commissar for Holland, says that Holland can never expect to regain even formal independence in the event of a German victory.

Gen. Sikorski, Polish Premier and Commander-in-Chief, is to visit Russia to confer with Soviet authorities. It will be recalled that 100,000 Polish troops are fighting along with Marshal Timoshenko's army on the southern front.

19th Nov.—Prince Paul of Greece states that the Greeks are still resisting the Axis. Fifteen Italian divisions and over 70,000 Germans are immobilized in Greece.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

15th Nov.—It is stated that the first batch of (600) Spanish workers is to leave shortly for Germany.

In a speech to the Egyptian Parliament, King Farouk thanks Britain for the gift of a million sterling for the construction of air raid shelters.

16th Nov.—Mr. de Valera warns Eire that, as the war will reach its real intensity in the coming spring or summer, she must make a nation-wide effort to achieve self-sufficiency in the necessaries of life.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

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